



Spring 2008

## Commission for Women - 2008 Spring Issue

Commission for Women

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## More Information



The Center for International Education coordinates a listserv called I-Events. I-EVENTS is an email distribution list dedicated to publicizing international and intercultural social and academic events on and around the University of Tennessee campus.

You may enroll at: <http://web.utk.edu/~globe/i-events.php>

The Ready for the World Web site has a calendar of events and much more information about interculturalism and diversity on campus and beyond. The address is: <http://www.utk.edu/readyfortheworld>

### AWIS (Association of Women Scientist)

Meetings are held monthly alternating between Main Campus (Dabney) and the Ag Campus (Hollingsworth). Please contact Dr. Suzanne Lenhart via email for meeting times and location [[lenhart@math.utk.edu](mailto:lenhart@math.utk.edu)].

WOMENS STUDIES Scholarship Referral Site <http://web.utk.edu/~wstudy/scholarships.php>

The *Networker* is published two times each year by the UT Commission for Women. Comments and suggestions may be forwarded to the Communications Committee in care of Ms. Deb Haines: [dhaines@utk.edu](mailto:dhaines@utk.edu) or 865.974.0989. *If you are a club advisor, you may receive duplicate copies. Please share extras.*

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## UT Commission for Women NETWORKER JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2008

### SPECIAL EVENTS in February and March

## ONE PERSON can make a difference.

The events planned for the next few months provide opportunities for us to think about our interests and passions. They will remind us that, when we least expect it, people are watching and our actions can make a difference.

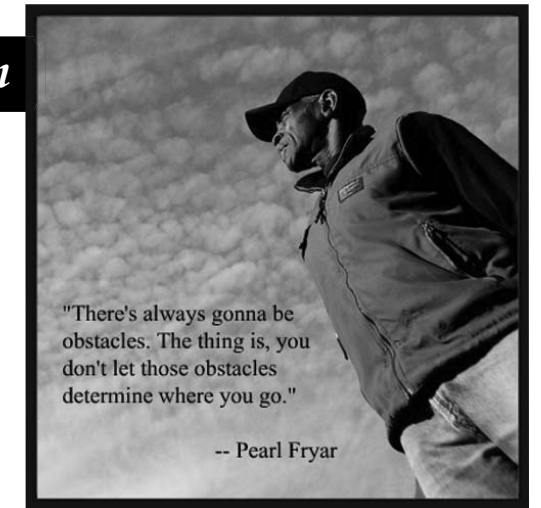
We hope you consider coming to see the movie "A Man named Pearl" in February. It is about one such individual, Pearl Fryar, who through perseverance and tolerance changed his yard and his community. If we open our eyes and ears, the message may change us.

The article about the "Women in Science" symposium held last October asks the question-- Are we using all the talent that we have among us? Through ignorance we sometimes overlook individuals who have made contributions to our knowledge and way of life. Great gifts come in all packages and sizes; we need to encourage all people to strive for excellence using their talents and interests.

Events in March include the Women of Color Summit and a visit by the Director of Women's Health and Research at the National Institute of Health. The Women of Color Summit is another first for the University of Tennessee. Faculty, staff and students have been working diligently to make another opportunity for discussion on how diversity can make us stronger. We are fortunate to have Dr. Vivan Pinn visit us from the National Institute of Health. She will be speaking about the disparities in women's health, how research is revealing the differences in diagnosis and treatment. This is an opportunity to become better informed about the differences in health care needs for women.

No matter our gender this information can affect us, and we can affect others. We hope you take time out of a busy academic schedule to participate in one or all of these events.

"A Man named Pearl" - February 27-28  
Women of Color Summit March 11  
Dr. Vivan Pinn, Women's Health Disparities March 25  
Retrospective: Women in Science Symposium



*Pearl Fryar, Topiary Artist*

February 27, 2008 7:00PM  
Alumni Memorial Building, Cox Auditorium

Meet Mr. Fryar, February 28 ~ Black Cultural Center  
Time to be announced..

## A Man Named Pearl



Winner of the Crystal Heart and Audience Choice Award at the 2006 Heartland Film Festival

*A Man Named Pearl* tells the story of Pearl Fryar, an African-American man in his mid-60s who created a garden paradise in his own yard with no formal training and limited resources.

The film offers an important message about respect for self and others. The film shows what one person can achieve when he allows himself to share the full expression of his humanity.

"A compelling feature that lifts us up without preaching."  
—Lawrence Toppman, The Charlotte Observer

"Inspiring. But almost as equally funny."  
—Richard Propes, independentcritics.com

For more information:  
[www.amannamedpearl.com](http://www.amannamedpearl.com)

UT Commission for Women

CONNECT with the CFW

Visit the CFW Website at:  
<http://cfw.utk.edu>

Join the WomenSpeak Listserve  
Send an email to:  
[listserv@listserv.utk.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.utk.edu)  
Type the message:  
[subscribe wmspeak](#)  
followed by your  
first name then last name

## CAMPUS MAIL

# 2007 Women in SCIENCE symposium

The first **Women in Science Symposium** was held on the University of Tennessee Knoxville campus on October 15 and 16, 2007. Led by Professor Jan Musfeldt in the Chemistry Department, the symposium focused on gender bias in the physical sciences including chemistry, physics, mathematics, and materials science and engineering. As such, it was a very positive step toward gender equity within the sciences on the University of Tennessee campus.

The goals of the workshop included a discussion of employment issues and career decisions facing graduate students and postdoctoral researchers, the importance of mentorship, risk taking, and leadership opportunities, tactics for addressing dual career and childbearing issues, the rewards of a diverse scientific workforce, and specific strategies that our representative academic departments can implement to improve the climate for women in the sciences, whether they are preparing for careers in academics, government laboratories, or industry.

Indeed, as these photographs from recent National Academy, National Research Council, National Science Foundation, National Institute of Health, and Department of Energy reports show, the challenge is upon us, both nationally and here at the University of Tennessee. The overarching goal of this Symposium was to turn these challenges into opportunities.



*In Chemistry departments across the country, women are well-represented at the graduate and postdoctoral levels, a success to which many Physics and Materials Science and Engineering departments aspire. This level of participation is not, however, reflected in the faculty ranks at major research Universities, in government laboratories, or in industry. Where do these intelligent, well-educated women go upon graduation? What influences their choices? What can be done to strengthen their hand?*

The Symposium attracted several nationally recognized speakers, including Debra Rolison (NRL), Marc Sher (William and Mary), Laura Kramer and Lynnette Madsen (NSF), Virginia Dale (ORNL), Barbara Jones (IBM Almaden), Christine Stevens (St. Louis), and Trish Culligan (Columbia). These speakers discussed a number of strategies for eliminating gender biases that negatively impact career progress and limit full participation of women in our academic programs. Webcasts of their presentations are available on our website: <http://www.chem.utk.edu/~wis/index.php>.

In order to initiate discussions and ensure broad participation of graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty from across the physical science departments at the University, we also held two very popular round table discussions on "Balancing Work and Family" and "Starting Your Career: Networking, Negotiations, Dress Code, Interviewing Skills."

The program committee included Prof. Rongyin Jin (Physics), Prof. Veerle Keppens (Materials Science and Engineering), Prof. Suzanne Lenhart (Mathematics), Prof. Adriana Moreo (Physics), and Prof. Claudia Rawn (Materials Science and Engineering). Other members of the organizing committee included Ms. Pamela Hindle (Commission on Women), Ms. Deborah Haines (College of Veterinary Medicine), Ms. Rhonda Wallace (Chemistry), and Mr. Henok Mikre (Chemistry).

*Funding for this Symposium was provided by the Chancellor's Office, the Departments of Chemistry, Mathematics, Materials Science and Engineering, and Physics, the UT Chemical Physics Program, and Eastman Chemical Company.*



*Panel discussion on "Balancing Work and Family Life" (top) and photos at the reception, held at the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in downtown Knoxville (middle, bottom).*

## Women of Color Summit 2008

### Empowering Women: Ingredients for Survival in the 21st Century

The **Women of Color Summit** will provide an occasion to bring people of diverse cultural backgrounds together to discuss issues relevant to women of color while allowing for valuable networking and educational opportunities. We have a dynamic key note speaker who will address the challenges that women of color encounter in their many roles as professionals, students, faculty and staff. This 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Summit will be held on March 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the University Center. To register for this event, please contact the International House at 974-4453 or the Office of Equity and Diversity at 974-3989. The **WoCS** is possible due to community and campus wide collaboration with representation from colleges, various university offices and departments. For more detailed information on the day's schedule and activities please visit the **WoCS** website available January 30th.

### Dr. Vivian W. Pinn, Office of Research on Women's Health (NIH)



#### How do I make a difference?

By Dr. Vivian W. Pinn. Excerpt from "Changing the Face of Medicine"

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/physicians/biography\\_254.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/physicians/biography_254.html)

We have, I think, played a major role, in helping to define women's health as beyond the reproductive system, which traditionally was how women's health was viewed. Dr. Marianne Legato likes to refer to it as the 'bikini' view of medicine, obviously referring to the breast and the reproductive system. And we've gone beyond that to recognize that heart disease is the leading killer of women in this country, something that really was not fully recognized until recently. And for that reason, we have more research looking at heart disease in women, which then hopefully can guide our young medical students, our young nursing students, and our young physicians, as well as more mature physicians, to know that one must counsel women about risk for heart disease and how to modify our behavior, and what kind of medications can help us in prevention of heart disease, so that women are more aware of this as a threat to themselves—not just to their husbands or their fathers.

We've been able to institute a number of programs to help increase career opportunities for women but, at the same time, career opportunities for men, too. Because everything that we fund really relates to both women and men. Our focus is on women or, as the trend seems to be now, to focus on sex and gender issues, sex and gender differences—that is, if you're born male or female, how that affects your physiology, and your system and your health as opposed to gender issues, which means the expectations of society of you because you are male or female, femaleness or maleness. And looking at the importance of addressing those issues, and, at the same time, wanting more to participate in conducting that research.

**Dr. Vivian W. Pinn (M.D.)**, director of the Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health, will speak on campus Tuesday, March 25, at 2:00 p.m., in the University Center Shiloh Room. The general theme of Dr. Pinn's talk will be Women's Health and Health Disparities.

Dr. Pinn is an engaging speaker, and her talk is open to the entire university community including students, faculty, staff and researchers. An informal reception will be held in room 220 of the UC between 1:30 - 2:00 p.m., just prior to her address.

*Her visit is co-sponsored by Women's Studies, the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, CEHHS, Law, Nursing, Social Work and the UTK Office of Research, as well as the Commission for Women, the Department of Psychology, and Africana Studies.*